

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 and 41-59 are pending. By this Amendment, Claim 3 is amended, thereby leaving Claims 1-2, 4-21 and 41-59 unchanged.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the allowance of Claim 58 and for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 4-17, 21, 41-54, 56 and 58.

35 USC § 102 Rejections

Claims 1-3, 18, 55, 57 and 59 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,443,675 ("Kopras"). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections.

Independent Claim 1 defines a power tool comprising a motor, a motor housing supporting the motor and defining an air outlet and an air flow path from the motor housing through the air outlet, and a shield removably connectable to the motor housing, the shield being positionable at least partially outside the motor housing and to at least partially cover the air outlet.

Kopras discloses a hand-held power tool 20 including a motor housing 22 supporting a motor. Air vents 42 and 44 are defined by the motor housing 22. A moveable vent cover 140 is supported within the motor housing 22. The cover 140 is moveable to selectively block and unblock the vents 42 or the vents 44. When the cover 140 is moved to one position, the vents 42 are unblocked, allowing air flow from the motor housing 22 through the vents 42, and at least some of the vents 44 are blocked to increase the air flow out of the vents 42. When the cover 140 is moved to another position, the flow of air through the vents 42 is blocked, and the air flow exits the motor housing 22 through the vents 44.

Kopras does not teach or suggest a power tool including, among other things, a shield removably connectable to the motor housing. Rather, the cover 140 is supported within the motor housing 22. Kopras does not teach or suggest that the cover 140 is removable from the motor housing 22. Further, if the cover 140 is removed from the motor housing 22, the power tool 20 of Kopras would not operate as intended, e.g., in some operations, to provide for clearance of cutting debris and, in other operations, to avoid debris being blown away from the point of a cut. Kopras, col. 6, lines 10-14 and 29-31.

For at least these independent reasons, Kopras does not teach or suggest all the limitations of independent Claim 1. Accordingly, independent Claim 1 is allowable. Rejected dependent Claims 2, 55 and 59 and allowable Claims 41-54 and 56 are allowable for at least the same and other independent reasons.

Independent Claim 3 defines a router comprising a base, a motor housing supported by the base and defining a central axis and an air outlet, the air outlet having portions thereof positioned on each of two opposing sides of the central axis, air passing from the motor housing through the air outlet, a motor supported by the motor housing, and a shield connectable to the motor housing in a position to at least partially cover the portions of the air outlet on the two opposing sides of the central axis, the shield, when connected to the motor housing, allowing flow through the air outlet during operation of the router.

Kopras does not teach or suggest a router including, among other things, a shield connectable to the motor housing in a position to at least partially cover the portions of the air outlet on the two opposing sides of the central axis, the shield, when connected to the motor housing, allowing flow through the air outlet during operation of the router. Rather, in Kopras, during an operation of the power tool 20, the cover 140 may be positioned such that the flow of air through the vents 42 may be completely blocked.

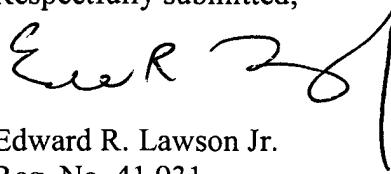
For at least these independent reasons, Kopras does not teach or suggest all the limitations of independent Claim 3. Accordingly, independent Claim 3 is allowable. Rejected dependent Claims 18-20 and allowable Claims 4-17 and 21 are allowable for at least the same and other independent reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 1-21 and 41-59 are respectfully requested.

The undersigned is available for telephone consultation during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. R. Lawson Jr.", with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.

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